configured to deflect each light beam in a continuously changing direction thereby converting each light beam into a scanning light beam. Each of the two scanning beam focusing mechanisms is arranged and configured to bring the scanning light beam to a focus on a photoconductive surface. Each of the two scanning beam focusing mechanisms each of which produce a beam which satisfies an equation of $\Delta L\cos\alpha < R/2$ at a junction of the first scanning light beam with the second scanning light beam on the photoconductive surface, wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

B1

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to another aspect of this invention, a method of optical scanning includes the steps of emitting at least two light beams, shaping the at least two light beams, deflecting each of the at least two light beams in a continuously changing direction thereby converting each of the at least two light beams into a scanning light beam, and bringing the scanning light beam to a focus on a photoconductive surface with at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms each of which produce a beam. Each beam satisfies an equation of $\Delta L\cos\alpha < R/2$ at a junction of the at least two scanning light beams with each other on the photoconductive surface, wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

B2

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to another aspect of the invention, an image forming apparatus includes a photoconductive member and an optical scanning apparatus. The optical scanning apparatus

B3

includes at least two light sources, at least two beam shaping mechanisms, a light deflector, and at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms. Each of the two light sources is arranged and configured to emit a light beam. Each of the two beam shaping mechanisms is arranged and configured to shape the light beam. The light deflector is arranged and configured to deflect each light beam in a continuously changing direction thereby converting each light beam into a scanning light beam. Each of the two scanning beam focusing mechanisms is arranged and configured to bring the scanning light beam to a focus on a surface of the photoconductive member and satisfies an equation of $\Delta L\cos\alpha < R/2$ at a junction of the at least two scanning light beams with each other on the surface of the photoconductive member, wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

B3

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of image forming includes the steps of charging a surface of a photoconductive member, emitting at least two light beams, shaping the at least two light beams, deflecting each of the at least two light beams in a continuously changing direction so as to convert each of the at least two light beams into a scanning light beam, and bringing the at least two scanning light beams to a focus on the surface of he photoconductive member with at least two scanning beam focusing mechanisms. Each of the at least two scanning beam focusing mechanism which produce a beam which satisfies an equation of $\Delta L\cos\alpha < R/2$ at a junction of the at least two scanning light beams with each other on the photoconductive surface, wherein ΔL represents an inherent light pass length variation, α represents an incident angle, and R represents an inherent marginal distance.

B4